

LUCHA LIBRE WEEKLY

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SPECIAL ISSUE: LUCHA LIBRE AT MID-YEAR

Because of the amount of news I wanted to cover, this will be the first part of a two-part look at the year of 1992 in Mexican wrestling from December 19, 1991 (when the offices essentially shut down for 1991) to July 22, 1992, or the first seven months-plus of the year. This week I'll concentrate on some of the "fun" stuff like "mid-year awards" and the like whereas next week I will get more into an analysis of how the promotions have done this year and where they may be headed. Let's get started!

* **WRESTLER OF THE MID-YEAR** As I look at many candidates, I feel that many deserve a place at the top of consideration, but I am not sure one stands out more than another. I could pick Octagon; locally (in Mexico City), he is the hottest draw; he has improved each year and is having unreal technical matches in 1992; he led two promotions at the box office; he fronted a big-screen success; and he has quieted critics who were envious of his quick success with his high work rate. I could pick el Hijo del Santo, the largest draw in the boondocks and in Los Angeles; the latter distinction may prove to be the major one over time as if the AAA can build a territory in Los Angeles—where gates are measured in large U. S. dollars and not small Mexican pesos—it could make (or break) the promotion; plus his work rate has jumped up a notch since he finally decided to jump to the AAA full-time. I could pick Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo for his ability to draw; his unmatched knowledge of ring tactics, timing, and pacing; and his unreal work ethic at age 46 1/2. I could pick either el Brazo de Oro or Pierroth junior for keeping the old SNL union boys from revolting when a new union was formed and new job opportunities arose (as well as for each man's value in the ring). I could pick Canek for still being, after all this time, the Ric Flair of Mexico, the best heavyweight around even at age 38 but almost beyond any successful use because he's been on top every week for 14 years and in this business nobody, not Flair, not Canek, nobody can go 14 X 52 weeks on top in a row and still have enough fans care (it's the nature of this "entertainment" beast). I could pick purely the best overall workers, Jose "el Negro" Casas; Fuerza Guerrera; Pimpinela Escarlata; Silver King; Emilio Charles junior; etc. But to me the one I think I'd pick is the one who has reached the top rung of success this year; has a superior work rate (a top ten worker in Mexico); can draw (well, fairly well) on top against not much opposition; and has finally risen to the level his talent and charisma deserve. So I pick, so far in 1992, **LA BESTIA SALVAJE**.

* **MATCH OF THE YEAR** In making my choice here, I am going to consider matches only from 12/19/91 to 6/18/92, because I have not seen the promotions' TV shows of matches taped after that date. This means I have not seen two likely candidates, the Negro Casas/el Dandy match from 7/3/92 and the Cowboys/Can-Am's match from 6/26/92. Of those that I have seen, the best by promotion goes as follows. In the AAA, the match I like best (I gave it ****) had the draw between los Nuevos Destructores del Ring (Tony Arce, Rocco Valente, and el Vulcano) versus Kendo Star, el Solar I, and el Angel Azteca. This match was taped on June 12, 1992, at Queretaro, and aired on Galavision on June 21st, 1992. The best UWA match I have seen so far, and it was close, was a six-man tag-team match from Sunday, February 16, 1992, at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan, where Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, Silver King, and el Texano defeated Doctor Wagner junior, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and el Tigre Canadiense two falls to one. I gave that match **** 1/4, the same grade as the match from February 2nd, 1992, at el Toreo, where Dos Caras won the UWA World Heavyweight Championship from Canek, but just barely I thought the six-man tag was a better match. The best Japanese match that I have seen involving a Mexican-circuit regular was the match from the New Japan Top Of The Super Junior III junior heavyweight tournament, where on the opening night in Tokyo's Korakuen Hall (4/16/92), el Samurai (Osamu Matsuda) upset Jushin "Thunder" Liger (Keiichi Yamada). Actually, I think their matches have gotten worse each time out since. For a Japanese match involving a Mexican that I have seen, the match with Eddy Guerrero and The Pegasus Kid looked hot. In the Tijuana/LA/WWA area, the best thing I have seen so far was, of course, the main event from 5/16/92 at Cal State-LA with el Hijo del Santo teaming with Tarzan Goto and Atsushi Onita to defeat Horace Boulder, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and el Gigante Warrior in three falls. The EMLL has had more good matches, though, in 1992, by far, than the other promotions. Their two series at la Arena Mexico this year have simply been outstanding. The Masakre/Pirata Morgan hair match from 2/26/92 was great. The Bull Nakano/Lola Gonzales CMLL title match from 6/12/92 looked to be super. The 6/5/92 match with Jose "el Negro" Casas, Pierroth junior, and el Brazo de Oro versus el Dandy, Lizmark, and el Faraon was fabulous.

But I think the best match, overall, to me, was the match from la Arena Mexico from February 14, 1992, where la Bestia Salvaje won the hair of Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla. It was spectacular, told a story (heel ref), but had solid wrestling at its core. And what a third fall! I gave it **** 1/4 (my highest grade given out this year, so far). So the winner is LA BESTIA SALVAJE VERSUS EL HURACAN SEVILLA, 2/14/92

* TOP PAREJA OF 1992 Let me mention those I considered at the top. Since Mexico is so heavy on trios, but light on parejas; there aren't many regular tag-teams. Los Cowboys/Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano) are obvious choices. So are el Misterioso and el Volador. Really, neither the duo of Oro and Plata nor the duo of el Vulcano and Tony Arce are in the running because they have been in trios all year. Super Calo and Winners team up regularly in the AAA, but always in a trio. Los Supremos I y II and los Espectros (junior and de Ultratumba) have been effective for the EMLL, but low on the cards. Actually, Konnan el Barbaro and el Dandy were getting a real push as a winning pareja right before the split. Maybe I should consider Koga and Iga. Also, Ciclon Ramirez and la Aguila Solitaria. Anyway, the clear winners, by a landside, are LOS COWBOYS.

* TOP TRIO OF 1992 Here there is a ton of nominations. In the AAA, los Hermanos Diamita, los Nuevos Destructores del Ring, el Angel Azteca/el Volador/el Misterioso, and Perro Aguayo/Octagon/el Hijo del Santo come to mind. There, I'd say los Destructores. In the FMW/WWA/LA/TJ area, the best might have been los Mercenarios Americanos, though locally at Jalisco Promotions, something should be said for el Piloto Suicida's squad. In the UWA, los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte have been good, but not so good as la Ola Lila. Whether Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna or Casandro is their third, they are still the best. Can't say a lot for las Panteras Rosas this year, too, nor los Asesinos del Ring, nor the regular foreign trios. In the EMLL, the standard-bearer—as always wherever they may go—are los Mosqueteros del Diablo. While not so strong in the ring as either los Nuevos Infernales nor los Intocables del Ring, the Brazos are the MVPs of Mexican wrestling for 1992. The up and coming trio here is "El Trio Metalico" (Oro, Plata, and Bronce) who are unbelievably spectacular and at their level of experience, figure to be superstars soon. No Mexican wrestler on his first tour of Japan has gotten over better than Oro in the one year since la Bestia Salvaje debuted in June 1991. Missing in action this year are los Hermanos Guerreros and la Plaga del Ring, who improved greatly then split. My winning trio isn't the best trio in any one thing, but they are too valuable not to be the trio of the year so far in 1992: LOS TRES BRAZOS. And if you don't agree they should be considered, compare the drastic decline in UWA gates with the date they left in 1991 (late May) and you'll see one amazing statistic.

* BEST ROOKIE OF THE MID-YEAR I want to keep the nominees to those wrestlers I know debuted within the six months prior to the beginning of my mid-year start point of 12/19/91. That makes anyone who has debuted on or after 6/19/91 eligible. That means these wrestlers, so far as I can tell, are among those eligible: Lethal, Kid Boxer, el Galactico, el Metalico, Okano, el Hijo de Lizmark, el Hijo del Solitario (well, he debuted 5/26/92, but that's close enough), Kato Kung Lee junior, M. S. 1 junior, el Arana de Oro, The King, el Coloso, el Trueno, el Angel Mortal, el Magnate, el Rey Misterio junior, el Halcon Vigia, el Hijo del Angel Blanco, el Mago Fantasma, el Nuevo Angel Blanco, la Panterita Surena, Alda Moreno, Lynx, el Filoso, el Bello Incognito, The Rose, el Nuevo Audaz, el Tornado, and maybe a whole bunch of AAA guys (I can't tell). Of these, two stand out. The runner-up is el Angel Mortal, who has been fun to watch on the rare UWA shows he's been on. But the leader, far and away, is EL HIJO DE LIZMARK.

Now it's time to shorten things up and just go through some categories more quickly:

* BEST FEUD: Still the best to me, for workrate, draw, etc., is Octagon versus Fuerza Guerrera, and we have yet to have the blow-off and probable best match of the whole feud! Nothing the UWA does draws, while Paco Alonso has been so good at promoting this year that even things that should not on paper draw flies (Salvaje vs. Sevilla) draw. That's why I picked a feud that still works on its own, in all ways.

* MOST IMPROVED: Oro, Plata, and Bronce are all improved greatly, but Oro seems to be hitting the peak better and more quickly than the others. It didn't seem possible last year, but two guys at the top, Octagon and la Bestia Salvaje, are still improving. El Misterioso has become much more solid and much less unpredictable. La Parca, whoever he is, is still doing better each time out. Actually, Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense (Ian Hotchkisson) has improved a whole bunch. El Angel Mortal is better and so is el Principe Maya. But to me most improved is Oro.

* COOLEST MASK: This is purely personal. I still love la Mascara Sagrada's mask. But overall, el Misterioso's series wins for me. Maybe Vince McMahon sees things the same way; maybe that's why Konnan's WWF costume will look like el Misterioso more than like Lyger.

* BEST DIVE: There are as ton here to choose from as well, but I think Oro's dives have been more spectacular than anybody else's all year, so he would win as "Best Flyer." But for a single dive, the best was probably Winners's dive (a Lyger dive but way up high over the top rope) within the past few weeks on AAA Galavision (he's done it twice at least, I think). Also, Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla's Lyger flip from off of the top rope corner turnbuckle outside the ring was super and a great way to finish off his series of spectacular third-fall dives onto la Bestia Salvaje in their hair match 2/14/92. I also still enjoy *planchas* by el Brazo de Plata and his same-sized younger brother Super Brazo.

* **BEST FINISHING MOVE** No contest for me here. I am excluding dives that result in count-out victories, such as a dive such as *la quebrada* the Asai moonsault bodyblock, but would take a move such as el Hijo del Santo's *topa* after which he then immediately covers his opponent. I like el Rayo de Jalisco's and el Hijo del Santos' *topes en reversas*. I like the *cavernaria* done by The Killer, The Pegasus Kid, and others. The best general use move is the *hurtaerrana* used by all of los Villanos, Lizmark, Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, but used best by Ciclon Ramirez. But I feel the best of them all is *la magistra* or the Dandina Cardle, used exclusively by el Dandy and Negro and Canelo Casas. It is so cool I think it ought to be Konnan's finisher in WWF. It would get him over as something cool and different, along with his costume, and stamp him as a *luchador*.

* **BEST EXTRANJERO OF THE MID-YEAR** The *extranjero* is the foreigner, the *gaijin* so to speak. Amongst the ladies, we have seen Bull Nakano, Kaoru Maeda, Akira Hokuto, Etsuko Mita, Mima Shimoda, and Mariko Yoshida come to Mexico. It is obvious that all around Bull Nakano is the best wrestler of these ladies, but I got the feeling none of them got over quite as well as Kyoko Inoue and Toshiyo Yamada did when they came in in late 1991. Amongst the Japanese men, the choice among Yoshihiro Asai, Haraoki Hamada, Osamu Matsuda, King Haku, Masao Orihara, Toshiyuki Nakahara, Momotaro, Okano, and el Ninja Sasuke was obvious; Asai (as el Ultimo Dragon) is in a league by himself, though I think Orihara has a very bright future. Amongst the Canadians, we had Bufalo Allen, el Tigre Canadiense, The Pegasus Kid, Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, and Phil Lason of the Can-Am Express. Christopher Michael Benoit, The Pegasus Kid, worked one brief tour here, and Phil Lason (Danny Kroffat) worked two; both are super, but I pick Lason on this basis. However, it is crucial to understanding how box office appeal is not solely limited to workrate in that Vampiro outdraws and outheats all the other Canadians *combined*. Of the Americans, and not counting el Misterioso or Konnan el Barbaro (or even The Black Power II) but just for Americans "on a tour," there are many good candidates. For the UWA, Doug Furnas/D. N. S. Funas and Bam Bam Bigelow got over best. For the EMLL, The Love Machine really picked up the style well. For the other promotions, the AAA, the WWA, the AWWA, etc., hey, Louie Spicoli's as good as any of them. When I consider the islanders, for Dominica to Puerto Rico to Hawaii to Samoa, The Head Hunters A and B, Kokina, Fatu, and The Samoan Savage all stand out, but I think Ricky Santana and Miguelito Perez are the two at the top of this crop. (See most underrated for more about these two). What do you have when you put these together? How do you compare an Asai to an Orihara to a Bigelow to a Lason to a Barr to a Perez? They all fill a valuable role. Probably Bam Bam Bigelow should get this, as he works super well with all the UWA heavyweights, but for inspiring crowd reaction, a hot feud, and a the biggest gate/attendance for any single match in Mexico City since the 58th anniversary show 9/6/91, plus for picking up the tosses and style better than any American in recent memory, the winner here is The Love Machine (Art Barr).

* **MOST UNDERRATED WRESTLER** Boy oh boy, this is my favorite category. These are the guys who I think are far better than their limited use has shown so far. For example, my favorite luchador in the world is Heavy Meta (Erick Casas Ruiz, ex-el Canelo Casas). Now, despite the fact that I like him so much, he is a good example of what I mean in this category, as since he lost the Mexican National Welterweight Championship to Ciclon Ramirez almost eighteen months ago, he has not had a single program with anyone. This is a guy who by anyone's definition of workrate is one of the twenty or so top luchadores in Mexico, and at age 21 (well, he'll be 22 in October) has a huge future ahead of him; yet he means less than nothing at the gate and all that work rate and charisma is going to waste. There are others like Casas, though. These are all in my opinion, of course. I think el Hijo de Tinieblas is the next great EMLL heavyweight, a virtual el Rayo de Jalisco junior right under their noses. In the UWA, the way they misuse la Ola Lila, especially Pimpinela Escarlata but also Casandro and May Flowers, is sad. In the AAA, besides Casas, I think they've barely done anything with two of their most over "new characters" with the young fans, el Misterioso and el Volador. Remember, el Misterioso was (still is actually) NWA World Welterweight Champion and Mexican National Parejas Champion when he worked for Paco Alonso and has barely shown up on AAA television. El Angel Azteca (who may get a big push later as he turns heel) is sorely underused too. The EMKLL, because it has the largest talent pool, has the most guys, but I think "el Trio Metalcio" is far more over than they suspect and could really fly (no pun intended) if let go. I think el Hijo del Gladiador is a coming rudo, with a lot of potential. I think they really under-utilize el Hijo de Lizmark. And where has America been since he won the CMLL World Welterweight title. In the 13 weeks between soccer seasons, do they give him a rest, too? Considering his talent and contract, I am not sure that they don't under-utilize el Ultimo Dragon, too, though I bet before too long he'll have the NWA World Light Heavyweight title around his waist in Tokyo. Finally, amongst the ladies, Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos and Lady Apache have hit their peak in the last year (particularly Martha) and could be better used.

Do you, the reader, have any thoughts or comments on these awards? Think I am way off base? Feel someone else should have won or have been considered? Write me and tell me about it. When I get the comments in, I will print them as is. Geez, with over 400 wrestlers working for the EMLL + the AAA + the UWA + independents around Mexico City, I could have missed someone as or more qualified than those I named. Just write and let me know. And, as I mentioned before, next week, I will get into more of a long-range view of where we have been since December and where I think we may be headed during the next few months insofar as all the promotions go. I will have about as much news next week as I did this week, so the issues should look real similar. Then, back to normal.

NEWS: I am going to do like Dave Meltzer does, put this in a big paragraph with the three dots signalling a break in ideas, to get as much news as has happened in the last week into this issue. Here we go. The biggest news is that Canek regained the UWA World Heavyweight Championship, beating Dos Caras in the main event of the UWA card at el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Naucalpan, Mexico, on July 5th, 1992. This begins Canek's 12th title reign, which I believe is not only a record for World Heavyweight belts but for any one wrestler holding any one title. During his reign, which began February 2, 1992, Dos Caras defended the title no other times. The semifinal on that card saw Enrique Vera, The Black Scorpio, and Tinieblas I (seconded by the little Ewok mascot Alushe) defeat the trio of el Loco Zandokan, el Scorpio junior, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) in three falls. The finish of the third fall saw el Scorpio junior disqualified for removing the mask of The Black Scorpio. The tercera saw The Can-Am Express I y II (Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas) teaming with The Black Power II (Texan Johnny Vanelli Guzman) to defeat los Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano) and their partner Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada in two straight bloody falls. At the end of this match, los Efectivos challenged The Can-Am Express for a two-masks versus two-hairs match for this coming Sunday, July 12th, at el Toreo, and that will be the main event. The segunda from 7/5 saw The King, Fray Tormenta, and el Coloso defeating Kahos I, la Sombra Negra, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro. Finally, the opener 7/5 saw los Tortugillos Karatekas I, II, III, and IV (Donatelo {Rocky Santana}, Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Rafael) defeating el Mohicano I, el Mohicano II, Ricky Boy, and el Bucanero junior. Good to see el Mohicano I (the better of the two Mohicanos) back from a broken arm. El Dragon CHino II is still out with a broken leg....Since I was mentioning the 7/12 el Toreo card, here's what's underneath the Can-Ams/Efectivos main event: the semifinal has Dos Caras, Tinieblas I (with Alushe), and el Villano III facing Canek, The Killer (with Andy Barrow), and Doctor Wagner junior. The tercera saw Los Cazadores de Cabezas I y II (The Head Hunters A and B) return from Puerto Rico, teaming with el Scorpio junior to face The Black Scorpio, Enrique Vera, and Transformer. The segunda saw Kahos I, Rambo, and el Loco Zandokan booked as a one-time re-forming of the ex-UWA World Trios Champions "El Triangulo De La Muerte" to face current UWA World Trios champions Los Nuevos Misioneros De La Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) in a non-title match. Not sure if Rambo will make that date, though. The inicial saw Lasser, el Matematico I, and el Celestial face Zeus (ex-Rey Richard), Casandro, and el Hijo del Diablo....In other UWA cards this past week, on Monday, July 6th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in Puebla, the capital city of the state of Puebla, the main event saw The Black Scorpio, el Villano III, and Tinieblas I (with Alushe) face The Can-Am Express I y II and Doctor Wagner junior. In the semifinal los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte had a non-title match versus Silver King, el Texano, and el Gran Hamada. The segunda saw el Celestial, The King, and Enrique Vera versus el Loco Zandokan, el Bucanero junior, and The Babe Face I. The inicial saw el Ninja Sasuke (now known as "The Great Sasuke" in Japan, ex-"Masa Michinoku" in Japan), Takeda, and el Matematico I versus Zeus, el Espanto IV, and el Espanto V....Thursday, July 9th, 1992, saw the traditional Thursday night cards at la Arena Toluca and la Pista Arena Revolucion for the UWA. At la Arena Toluca, the main event saw Canek and el Loco Zandokan face el Villano III and el Gran Hamada (Canek at 38 is the youngest of those four). The semifinal saw Moctezuma and Transformer face Shu, el Guerrero and el Hijo del Diablo. The segunda saw Aero Flash and el Soberbio face los Mohicanos I and II. The inicial had Pavorreal versus Frayle Top....And the 7/9/92 card at a Pista Arena Revolucion had Tinieblas I (with Alushe) and The Black Scorpio have a non-title tilt with The Can-Am Express I y II. The semifinal saw The King and el Coloso versus Doctor Wagner junior and Rambo. The segunda had el Rostro Infernal and Casandro versus el Celestial and Fray Tormenta. The inicial saw los Rayos Tapatios I y II versus el Principe Maya and el Danes I, who are Canek's two younger brothers....The Friday night card 7/10/92 at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl was taped for television to be shown Saturday, July 18th, 1992, in Mexico City and on satellite. The main event saw Dos Caras, el Villano III, and Tinieblas I (with Alushe) face Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The semifinal saw a non-title match, no other stipulations, between The Can-Am Express and los Efectivos. The tercera had The Black Scorpio and el Gran Hamada versus Doctor Wagner junior and Shu, el Guerrero. The segunda saw Transformer and el Celestial versus el Scorpio I and el Scorpio junior. The inicial saw Mando Amezcua junior face el Soberbio....The UWA held two big functions Saturday, July 11th, 1992. One was at la Arena Queretaro in Queretaro, Queretaro, but was headlined by EMLL wrestlers Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense and Atlantis facing la Bestia Salvaje and el Pirata Morgan....Oddly enough, the other big UWA card for 7/11 was also headlined by EMLL wrestlers. In that one, los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Oro, el Brazo, and el Brazo de Plata) faced Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, Salomon Grondy, and The Love Machine. Yes, Vampiro was booked twice, but the shows started an hour apart and were only 30 miles away, so he could have made both shows (Pirata Morgan had a worse problem as I'll get to on the next page). Anyway, back to Celaya and its locally famous "el Palenque de la Feria" Gymnasium. The semifinal of this special card had Transformer and el Celestial (who seem to be a pretty regular tag-team now) facing el Engendro and el Bucanero junior. The tercera had Mister Condor and Zeus face Aero Flash and el Ojo de Tigre. The segunda and the inicial were both *mano a mano* matches, the former having Takeda versus el Mohicano II and the latter seeing Bat Blue facing el Migra....**Super Luchas** magazine reports that both Abdullah The Butcher (Larry Shreeve) and Tiger Mask (Koji Kanemoto) have signed to make brief tours of the UWA circuit in the late summer....Their television has now become regular, in that the shows are taped Friday nights at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl and air eight days later at 2:30 pm MDT on channel 13/Imevision off of satellite.

NEWS (CONTINUED): In the EMLL, things are running smoothly as they head into the final week of the summer tour of la Arena Mexico. The last Friday night card is 7/17/92 and the last Sunday card is 7/19/92. I look for both those two shows to have double stipulation matches, both set up by events at this week's respective shows....The main event for the Sunday (7/12) show at la Arena Mexico had The Love Machine, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense facing la Fiera, el Pirata Morgan, and M. S. 1. La Fiera and The Love Machine have been in a big feud so they may have a hair match on 7/19....The Friday night card at la Arena Mexico, taped for airing 7/11/92 in Mexico City, had these matches scheduled. The main event pitted los Nuevos Infernales (M. S. 1, el Pirata Morgan, and captain el Satanico) versus The Love Machine, Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, and captain Lizmark. They may set up a Lizmark versus Satanico NWA World Light Heavyweight Title shot. The semifinal saw los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Tres Brazos (el Brazo de Oro, el Brazo, and captain el Brazo de Plata) facing Emilio Charles junior, Nitron, and captain el Gran Markus junior. The tercera saw Ringo Mendoza, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, and captain el Dandy versus la Fiera, la Bestia Salvaje, and captain Jose "el Negro" Casas. The segunda saw el Hombre Bala (who now usually works as "la Cavernicola II, el Troglodita," teaming with el Comando Ruso to face Apolo Dantes and el Hijo del Solitario. I expect Soli to turn on Dantes and have a mask versus hair match on 7/17. The inicial, off of television, featured Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla and Ciclon Ramirez versus el Felino and Ponzona....Speaking of el Felino, the man in the new orange tiger outfit defeated Ciclon Ramirez on Sunday, July 5th, 1992, at la Pista Arena Revolucion, to win the Mexican National Welterweight Championship. Ramirez had held that title since February 7, 1991, when he had won the belt from el Felino's brother Erick "el Canelo" Casas, who now works for the AAA as "Heavy Metal." The semifinal of the card 7/5 saw el Mestizo defeating Christian Diaz in a *caballero contra caballero* match. The tercera saw Aaron Grondy (Mike Shaw, returning to Mexico for EMLL and not AAA as had been expected) teaming with the debuting el Trueno and Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla to defeat the trio of Ulises Plus, el Supremo I, and el Espectro junior. The segunda saw el Cadaver de Ultratumba, el Espectro de Ultratumba, and el Comando Ruso defeating Kato Kung Lee junior, Javier "el Chamaco" Valaguez, and Rokambole. And the inicial saw la Super Estrella and Xochitl Hamada defeating la Venus and Tania la Berrenda. All matches on this card went three falls....Also on 7/5/92, the EMLL promoted a title match at la Arena Mexico. There, CMLL World Trios Champions Los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Pierroth junior) retained their titles by defeating Atlantis, el Dandy, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, in three falls. This was said to have been a great match, as was the Ramirez vs. Felino match above. The semifinal at la Arena Mexico saw the trio of el Jalisco, Black Magic, and The Love Machine winning two out of three falls from la Fiera, the debuting in Mexico Jack Victory, and Jose "el Negro" Casas. The tercera had Emilio Charles junior, el Gladiador junior, and el Solitario junior defeating Chavo Guerrero, Apolo Dantes, and Kato Kung Lee I (only Kato I in this match was not the son of a famous luchador) in three falls. The segunda saw Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales and la Sirenita over la Guerrera Purpura and Maria del Angel in three falls. And the inicial had Eclipse and el Guerrero Samurai II over los Kaifanes I y II in three falls....Going to recent EMLL cards, the card held Monday, July 6th, 1992, at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gym was as described last week: Super Torombolo/Genaro Contreras junior vs. Negro Peralta/Suspense mask/hair match; Coralillo defending the Distrito Federal Lightweight title versus el Principe Maya; and los Infernales versus los Tres Brazos....Pierroth junior defended his CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship at la Arena Puebla on 7/11/92. The week before, Masakre and Pierroth junior (from the "Los Intocables Del Ring" trio) had lost two straight falls to el Pirata Morgan and M. S. 1 (from the "Los Nuevos Infernales" trio), so to save face Pierroth offered to expose his title. Morgan is booked 55 miles away, at Queretaro, in a card that begins thirty minutes later, and I doubt he could make both cards....By the way, Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales got a nice write-up in the 7/10/92 issue of La Prensa; she said she had been born in 1961 and debuted in 1975....Also, Cesar Dantes is returning to EMLL rings this week, but as a rudo. Will his brother Apolo join him as a heel or will el Hijo del Solitario turn on Apolo and continue their big feud?....Ponzona, la Fiera, King Haku, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, head to the new SWS offshoot WAR promotion for two cards, 7/14/92 and 7/15/92, at The Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan....La Mascara Magica, who is Eddy Guerrero under a mask (and I don't think Eddy needs a mask at all) was said to have gotten over good so far. His debut under this name was 6/30/92 at la Arena Coliseo. He was said to have looked especially good at the Wednesday night EMLL card at la Arena Naucalpan on 7/8/92....Watch for el Hijo del Gladiador to take el Medico Asesino junior's place in the "la Nueva Ola Blanca" trio now that el Medico Asesino junior has jumped from the EMLL to the AAA....Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense has had an official fan club for him formed in Mexico City this past week....At a local EMLL independent promotion last Sunday, 7/5/92, at the soccer stadium "Netzahualcoyotl 1986," a state of Mexico commission doctor, Tomas Gutierrez, suffered a severe eye injury from a dive done by veteran luchador "el Suriano."....The head doctor of the state of Mexico commission, Francisco Daza, was at la Arena Toluca (in Toluca, the capital city of the state of Mexico) and at la Arena San Juan Pantitlan (in Pantitlan *barrio* area just outside the Distrito Federal) to give physical exams to both currently licensed and prospective new luchadores this past week. The new wrestlers trying out also had to pass the four-part in-ring tryout. The doctor reported that everyone passed the physical....In other line-ups from this past weekend, the traditional Saturday night show at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City was headlined on 7/11/92 by Black Magic, el Hijo del Solitario, and el Dandy facing la Fiera, el Gran Markus junior, and el Hijo del Gladiador. I expect Soli turned heel (again) here too....There

NEWS (CONTINUED): was a big stipulation match under the EMLL banner on Sunday, July 12th, 1992, at la Arena Toluca. There, in the main event, el Tigre risked his mask versus the hair of el Muneco Carinoso....Also on July 12th, the EMLL promoted its big Sunday card at la Arena Coliseo. The main event was scheduled to be a no stipulations, *mano a mano* bout between Ringo Mendoza and el Gran Markus junior. Now, I know it's tough, but contain yourselves, folks!....In some assorted notes, it looks like UWA Womens' World Heavyweight Champion Zuleyma will be out several weeks with a blown out left knee....They are saying that Atlantis's 35 straight winning defenses (of his NWA World Middleweight Championship) is a record....Roberto "el Guero" Rangel has joined Doctor Alfonso Morales as a columnist for Super Luchas magazine....Custodia magazine this week castigated all promotions for continuing to make their referees look foolish and the sport look ridiculous with this latest wave of heel refereeing, especially in using the heel ref to decide the outcomes of major stipulation matches....The EMLL television show has been going as normal at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm MDT on channel 9 in Mexico City on Saturday nights....The EMLL (and even the AAA once) has brought back legendary television announcer Pedro Septien (he was calling them for Televiscentro in the 1950's) to help with its "announcer shortage" since the split....Los Mafia I y II, when they arrive, will be in as "Al Capone" and "Lucky Luciano," but under masks....El Halcon Dorado II and el Halcon de Plata are two new "hawks" in action in the EMLL rings....The original Blue Demon (Luis Rabadan) has now said in two separate magazines' interviews that he is training to return to the ring. He debuted in 1948 and had retired in 1989....The magazines have all reported that CHavo Guerrero defeated Naoki (Sano) to win the SWS World Light Heavyweight Championship, which is not true....Super Luchas gave nice write-ups lately to las Cavernicolas I, II, and III {Popitekus, Troglodita (ex-el Hombre Bala), and Cro Magnon (ex-el Verdugo)}, The Blue Demon senior, The Blue Demon junior, and AAA wrestler Super Kiss....Some late results (late meaning I just got them) shows that in the off of television match from la Arena Mexico on 6/19/92, la Aguila Solitaria and el Solar II teamed up to defeat los Supremos I and II in three falls....Also, on June 12th, 1992, at San Luis Potosi (capital city of the state of the same name in Mexico and city of birth of the Mil Mascaras family), Pierroth junior won two out of three falls from Lizmark to retain the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship....Titanes del Ring last week gave nice write-ups to Jaque Mate, AAA wrestler Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and UWA referee el Fresero (real name Demetrio Guadalupe Aguilera Arrendondo), as well as UWA wrestler Kennich, and independent wrestlers los Blancos y Negros I y II and la Jungla Negra. The week before, la Fiera, el Pegaso, el Angel Blanco junior, Pierroth junior, and el Solar II (all EMLL wrestlers) were featured....In the triangular hair match held June 28th, 1992, at "la Plaza de Toros 'Monumental'" in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, Sangre Chicana defeated both Rick Patterson and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense with the help of heel EMLL referee "el Gato Montini" (Javier Medina). This left Patterson and Vampiro to wrestle a three-fall bout with the loser losing his hair, and you know how that came out--Vampiro won despite Montini. Promoter Carlos Elizondo now has shown he continually will bring in "the big boys" from Mexico City to beat his local boys (e. g., Stuka, Rick Patterson, la Sombra Negra, etc.) in big-money stipulation matches, but I have got to think that will kill his gates in the long run for the other 48 weeks a year because fans will take the local circuit guys as the small time and wait for the big boys or "real stars" to come in from Mexico City for the four big cards a year at the bull ring....In some even later results I have, at the Tuesday night card at la Arena Coliseo held on June 30rd, 1992, as the highlights were shown on this week's television show, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, el Hijo de Tinieblas, and Apolo Dantes defeated Jose "el Negro" Casas, Gargola el Sultan (I bet you never thought those two wrestling legends would ever get to team up together), and Emilio Charles junior in three falls. Casas and Dandy traded wins in the first two falls before Rayo pinned all three rudos in the third fall by crawling into the triangle created when the rudos did the standing leg lock hold and fall back routine that so many of us have seen before. Now let's go to the show that was held Friday night, July 10th, and aired on "el Super Cadena," channel 5 in Mexico City this week, on Saturday July 11th. The first match shown saw el Comando Ruso and el Hombre Bala (who was dressed up in his Cavernicola gear) defeating Apolo Dantes and el Hijo del Solitario in two straight falls. The first fall saw the rudos completely destroy Dantes as Soli would not tag in and Soli eventually walked out and was counted out rather than enter the fray and help Dantes, who was pinned. The rudos made Dantes submit in the second fall after busting him wide open. Then Soli walked in, laid down, was pinned, and then attacked Dantes after the match. So we have a Dantes-Solitario stipulation match for next week. This was graded at ** for a basic squash match. The tercera, the best match of the show at *** 3/4, saw Jose "el Negro" Casas get his revenge on el Dandy, pinning him after a foul in the first fall and with The Thunder Fire Power Bomb cleanly in the third fall. (This was a six-man as Casas, Fiera, and Bestia Salvaje won two of three falls from Dandy, Ringo Mendoza, and Ultimo Dragon). Dragon did a great plancha and Dandy and Casas did some of their great spots from the week before, but added some brawling into the ringside chairs as well. The semifinal saw los Brazos win two of three falls from Emilio Charles junior, Nitron, and el Gran Markus junior. Markus and Porky did some "fatty" spots and Nitron and al the Brazos did some "height" spots. This was a comedy match to relieve the pressure on the fans so that with all the stuff the promoters wanted them to remmeber from the other three matches here, in this encounter the fans could rest, laugh, and enjoy themselves. This is a crucial part of Mexican promotion and works very well. Porky got the pin in the third fall by doing an off of the top rope butt drop right onto the face and neck of Markus. ** 1/2 for the semi. The main event saw The Love Machine, Lizmark, and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense defeating the trio of los Nuevos Infeemales in two straight falls. They set up two big

NEWS (CONTINUED): stipulation matches from this match. As soon as Vampiro hit the ringside area, el Pirata Morgan laid into Vampiro and beat on him mercilessly and almost uninterruptedly for two straight falls. Vampiro did his first (to my knowledge) blade job and was busted open big time. In the EMLL, when a wrestler bleeds, he *bleeds*. To end the first fall, Lizmark, who had had his mask ripped in half by el Satanico and M. S. 1, returned to pin M. S. 1 with the jumping *huitacatana*. The second fall saw Vampiro finally get his jacket off, enter the ring, do a plancha (cross body block) from off of the top rope onto Pirata, then give Pirata an enzuiguri, then the other Infeinales re-entered the fray after splitting a win and a loss earlier in the fall. Re-entering after losing a part of a fall is illegal in lucha libre, and as soon as the losing Infeinale (el Satanico, who had been pinned by Lizmark) re-entered the fray, the Infeinales were DQed. After the match, ring announcer/opera star/co-promoter Vittorino announced that el Pirata Morgan and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense would have a *caballera contra caballera* match nest Friday, 7/17. That is definite. They should have the Satanico/Lizmark NWA Light Heavyweight title match underneath, although they may do a Dantes-Solitario match, or they may save that for 7/19 to go with the Fiera/Love Machine headliner. This 7/10 main event was rated at *** 1/4. All grades are by Lucha Libre Weekly correspondednt David Scherer. Now, here's the latest from the AAA world. By the way, I was looking for an office address in Mexico City for them, and could not find one. Then, Ovaciones, in its July 9th issue, criticizes the AAA for not having a local office!... On to this week's cards. I know of three they ran Friday night, July 10th, 1992. At one of the three locations, I know none of the matches; that card was at el Auditorio Municipal in Leon, Guanajuato....The second 7/10/92 card was at "el Auditorio General Jose Maria Arteaga" in Queretaro, Queretaro, Mexico. The main event here featured Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and la Mascara Sagrada facing their arch-enemies in Fishman and Universo Dos Mil, respectively. The semifinal saw el Fantasma and el Sicodelico facing Junior (just jumped from the Tijuana/WWA area) and a wrestler to be announced. The segunda of the four-match card saw los micro super estrellas in action, as Micro el Misterioso, Micro el Volador, and Micro Konnan el Barbaro faced Micro Fuerza Guerrera and 2/3 of los Micros Destructores del Ring. The inicial featured Doctor Maldad and Mister Maldad teaming up to face los Matematicos III and IV....The third of the three 7/10/92 cards was the one taped for television to air 7/12/92 in Mexico City and 7/19/92 on Galavision. The main event had Octagon, el Hijo del Santo, and Konnan el Barbaro facing Cien Caras, The Blue Panther, and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada. The semifinal saw Rambo "el Soldad Maldito, el General" debuting with the AAA. He teamed with la Parca and The Ice Killer to face el Angel Azteca, el Panterita del Ring, and el Galactico. The segunda saw las mini super estrellas in action. Here, Octagoncito, el Angelito Azteca, and la Mascarita Sagrada teamed up to face el Picudito, el Piratita Morgan, and Jerrito Estrada. The inicial of the four-match card saw Winners team with Super Calo and el Rey Misterio junior (ex-Colibri, local LA/TJ star makes good) to face el Magante, Marabunta, and el Psicosis (who was making his debut in this match)....Their television show now airs regularly on channel four in Mexico City and on satellite at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm MDT....Now a brief comment about last week's television (the matches that aired on Galavision 7/5/92): first, they added a match from "el Auditorio Municipal" in Leon, Guanajuato, taped 7/3/92, to the cards taped 6/26/92 that had aired in Mexico City. The match that was added saw Super Calo, Super Raton, and Super Pinochio defeat el Magnate, Bleda, and Atila junior two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:17. The finish of the third fall saw Super Raton pin el Magnate after a tope en reversa (reverse diving headbutt). I rated it at *. Also, one of the matches that I reported on two issues back had a slightly different make-up than I had thought. Originally I had said that Super Calo, Winners, and el Galactico had defeated the "Earthquake Trio" of Terremoto, Maremoto, and Hectatombe when, after el Galactico was injured, el Maligno came to help. I was wrong. Terremoto missed the card and was replaced on the losing squad by el Maligno. The man who saved the day for el Galactico was Coliseo Dos Mil, who is Super Muneco's first and most prized protege. I thought it was a good way to introduce Coliseo Dos Mil, but they have not booked him on any show in the succeeding 14 days and I thought his costume looked far too close to el Maligno's. I gave the match **. I rated the six-man tag from 6/26 with el Hijo del Santo at *** and the Aguayo-Fishman singles match at *** 1/2. Those two old guys worked their hearts out under the hot television lights in the non-air-conditioned arena, but I thought (just as I do with the EMLL and el Gato Montini these days) that the heel refereeing bit has gone way too far. It's okay to favor the heels or to enforce the styles but the stuff "el Suspenders" (aka el Tirantes) is doing is too much for me. Quickly, here are the results from the 7/11 UWA television show. In a surprise, it emanated from Queretaro, Queretaro, and was taped Tuesday, July 7th, 1992. The inicial saw los Tortugillos Karatekas I, II, III, and IV defeating the team of Zeus (ex-Rey Richard), el Lobo Rubio, Rubio's son el Hijo del Diablo, and Mister Condor two falls to one in a very entertaining match. The turtles did some nice spots and some nice dives. Rated by David Scherer at ** 12/. The semifinal saw Jack Victory appear on UWA television. Just two days earlier, he had worked at la Arena Mexico for EMLL, so it was a surprise to see him go tho the UWA so fast. He teamed with the two youngest Villanos, los IV y V, to defeat Kahos I, el Loco Zandokan, and el Engendro two falls to one. I know (sarcasm) you won't believe this finish, but yes, Zandokan was disqualified for fouling one of the Villanos in the third fall! How original! That led Scherer to lower his grade of a ** 1/2 match to * 3/4. The main event had a similarly cheap ending. The Can-Am Express I y II teamed with The Killer to defeat the trio of The Black Scorpio, Enrique Vera, and el Villano III in three falls. The third fall saw The Killer pull off the Black Scorpio's mask (behind the refs back) but when the faces pulled off the Can-Am's masks in revenge, the faces were DQed! ** 1/2.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: M. S. 1: M. S. 1 is Pablo Fuentes Reyna. He was born on December 31, 1956, in Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico. He debuted under his real name on July 12, 1978, at the fairly late age for debuting luchadores of 21. He debuted in March 1979 as M. S. 1. The ring name comes from the anti-terrorist special drug enforcement forces of the Mexican Army. Due to his naturally large size (he currently stands 176 cm or 5'10" and is said to weigh 94 kg or 207.23 pounds although I think he's heavier and taller than listed), M. S. 1 was immediately pushed near the top of EMLL cards in and around Mexico City. He debuted under a mask when he took the M. S. 1 name and was a regular pareja with M. S. 2. The mask is identical to the one seen on Galavision over the last two years worn by midget wrestler M. S. 1/2. On September 2, 1982, right before the 49th anniversary of lucha libre show, at la Arena Mexico, M. S. 1 lost his mask to el Rayo de Jalisco junior. Sorry, I have no idea what became of M. S. 2. M. S. 1 wore the NWA World Light Heavyweight Championship twice. His first title reign began on February 13, 1985, at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, when M. S. 1 defeated Ringo Mendoza for the EMLL's top singles prize. Reyna held the belt until June 21st, 1985, when he lost the belt to old nemesis el Rayo de Jalisco junior at la Arena Mexico. M. S. 1's second reign began March 20, 1987, at la Arena Mexico, as he finally gained some revenge on Rayo. Reyna held the belt until June 24th, 1987, before losing the title to Cien Caras at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico, Mexico. During these title reigns, M. S. 1 and el Satanico formed a trio with el Pirata Morgan know as "los Infernales," and in March 1985 they won the Mexican National Trios Championships. Morgan left the team in October 1986, was replaced by Masakre, and los Infernales forfeited the National Titles. M. S. 1 and Masakre formed a fine *parejas* team, winning the National Parejas Championships twice. Their first reign was from March 1987 to March 1988 and the second went from 1989 to May 26, 1990, when they lost the titles to fellow rudos la Bestia Salvaje and Pierroth junior. M. S. 1 has often been near the top of big EMLL stipulation matches, losing his hair to el Pirata Morgan a few times and just last week (7/3/92) to el Faraon. He even helped re-form los Nuevos Infernales with Morgan and el Satanico, and they won on October 22, 1991, at la Arena Mexico, the tournament final over los Brazos to crown the first CMLL World Trios Champions. They held those belts until March 22, 1992, before losing them to los Intocables del Ring at la Arena Mexico. I do not believe that M. S. 1 is related to either Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna or Sangre Chicana (Andres Richardson Reyna) even though they all share the same last name. M. S. 1 is an excellent worker, both insofar as ring technique and timing/pacing goes. This, along with his size, means that Reyna will still be near the top of EMLL cards for some time.

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